

Magistrate Judge Michelle L. Peterson

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

KYLE ROBERT TORNOW,

Defendant.

NO. MJ20-569

COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION

18 U.S.C. § 844(e)

BEFORE, Michelle L. Peterson, United States Magistrate Judge, U.S. Courthouse,  
Seattle, Washington.

The undersigned complainant being duly sworn states:

**COUNT 1**  
**(Threat to Damage and Destroy Building)**

On or about July 24, 2020, in Seattle, within the Western District of Washington,  
the defendant, KYLE ROBERT TORNOW, through the use of an instrument of interstate  
and foreign commerce, and in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce, willfully  
made a threat to damage and destroy a building unlawfully by means of fire and an  
explosive.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(e).

1 The undersigned complainant, Katherine Murphy, being duly sworn, further  
2 deposes and states as follows:

3 **INTRODUCTION**

4 1. I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). As  
5 such, I am a “federal law enforcement officer” within the meaning of Federal Rule of  
6 Criminal Procedure 41(a)(2)(C), that is, a Government agent engaged in enforcing the  
7 criminal laws. I have been a Special Agent with the FBI for approximately two and a  
8 half years.

9 2. I am currently assigned to the Seattle Field Office where I am assigned to  
10 investigate domestic terrorism matters. During my service with the FBI, I have  
11 investigated and participated in the investigations of criminal activity, including but not  
12 limited to: crimes against persons, crimes against property, and conspiracy against civil  
13 rights. During these investigations, I have participated in the execution of search  
14 warrants and the seizure of evidence indicating the presence of criminal violations. As an  
15 FBI Agent, I have also conducted or participated in physical surveillance, debriefings of  
16 informants, and reviews of records and recordings. From these experiences, and from  
17 related training, I have become familiar with the ways in which persons coordinate, carry  
18 out, and conceal criminal activity. Additionally, I have completed training in  
19 investigating the use of computer systems and email in the commission of criminal  
20 activity.

21 3. This affidavit is made based upon my personal knowledge, training,  
22 experience and investigation, as well as upon information provided to me and my review  
23 of reports prepared by other law enforcement personnel. This affidavit is made for the  
24 purpose of establishing probable cause for this Complaint and thus does not include each  
25 and every fact known to me concerning this investigation.

26 **SUMMARY OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

27 4. The City of Portland uses a system called TrackIT that enables members of  
28 the public to create a user account via the internet through the system’s website, and

1 submit messages to the Portland Police Bureau. When a user submits a message, the  
2 message is assigned a unique item number, and contains the information such as name,  
3 phone number, and email address that was provided when the user created their account.  
4 On July 24, 2020, at 1:02 a.m., TrackIT Item 1859649 was submitted through the City of  
5 Portland's TrackIT system. According to the TrackIT system, the following identifiers  
6 were tied to the user that submitted the item:

7 Contact: Chester Wildwood  
8 PortlandOnline User  
9 400 Broad S  
10 SEATTLE, WA 98109  
11 Day: 206-937-3963  
12 dark56korbit@yahoo.com

13 5. The TrackIT item contained the following message:

14 Subject: War with citizens

15 Message:

16 I am going to bomb a police precinct in Portland, OR. The bomb is already  
17 in place and has been packaged in a way that prevents detection from  
18 canine officers. Unless your officers disengage your war with the citizens  
19 of Portland I will blow up this precinct. You are weak. We are strong, many  
20 and fluid in nature. If I am caught, others will take my place and  
21 immediately detonate the bomb. This is a felony threat. Please take this  
22 seriously to avoid death.

23 6. The message was sent during a period of reoccurring civil disorder in  
24 Portland.

25 7. Officers performed open source internet searches for the email address  
26 dark56korbit@yahoo.com. Officers discovered a Yahoo Answers thread that contained  
27 this email address, along with the name KYLE TORNOW. According to Yahoo records,  
28 this email address was created by KYLE TORNOW in Seattle, Washington, in June  
2005. Yahoo records show that the account is linked to phone number 206-495-1966.  
According to Verizon Wireless records, the subscriber for this phone number is KYLE

1 | TORNOW. In addition, according to LexisNexis database records, the phone number is  
2 | associated with not only KYLE TORNOW, but also "Chester Wildwoo," a name similar  
3 | to one used by the sender of the TrackIT message, "Chester Wildwood."

4 |       8. As stated above, the user associated with the TrackIT message listed a  
5 | phone number of 206-937-3963. According to CenturyLink records, this phone number  
6 | is subscribed to Robert Tornow, KYLE TORNOW's father.

7 |       9. The City of Portland's web server log related to the TrackIT submission  
8 | indicated the user's IP address was 75.172.138.139. Based on my training and  
9 | experience, I know that a server log is a log file automatically created and maintained by  
10 | a server consisting of a list of activities it performed. Subscriber records obtained from  
11 | CenturyLink show that the IP address was registered at the time of the TrackIT  
12 | submission to Robert Tornow at a West Seattle residence that Robert shares with KYLE  
13 | TORNOW. Based on these facts, I believe that the TrackIT item was submitted from an  
14 | electronic device while connected to internet service at the West Seattle residence.

15 |       10. KYLE TORNOW has had arrests for harassment, theft of a motor vehicle,  
16 | and drugs. I located a publicly viewable Facebook account for KYLE TORNOW. The  
17 | public version of his Facebook account contains the following post:

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11. I know from my training and experience that a solid black flag bearing a white "A" within a circle is a symbol of anarchist extremism specifically associated with black bloc violent ideology. Black bloc anarchist extremists believe the use of violent acts and threats are the only means of forcing their political and social change on the government and society.

12. On September 2, 2020, I spoke with KYLE TORNOW outside his residence. He admitted to sending the bomb threat.

CONCLUSION

13. Based on the foregoing, I respectfully submit that there is probable cause to believe that KYLE TORNOW committed the crime of Threat to Damage and Destroy a Building, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(e).

  
KATHERINE MURPHY, Complainant,  
Special Agent, FBI

The above-named agent provided a sworn statement attesting to the truth of the contents of the foregoing affidavit by telephone on this \_\_\_\_ day of September, 2020. The Court hereby finds that there is probable cause to believe the Defendant committed the offense set forth in the Complaint.

Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2020.

  
MICHELLE L. PETERSON  
United States Magistrate Judge